

## HQ AFCESA Points of Contact

Col Bruce Barthold, Commander (CC)  
Bruce.Barthold@tyndall.af.mil  
(850) 283-6101 or DSN 523-6101

Col Michael J. Cook, Director  
Technical Support (CES)  
Michael.Cook@tyndall.af.mil  
(850) 283-6342 or DSN 523-6342

Mr. Alvin Day, Division Chief,  
Mech/Elec Division (CESM)  
Alvin.Day@tyndall.af.mil  
(850) 283-6357 or DSN 523-6357

Mr. Ray Hansen, Program Manager  
(CESM)  
Ray.Hansen@tyndall.af.mil  
(850) 283-6317 or DSN 523-6317

Mr. Fred Walker, Deputy Program  
Manager (CESM)  
Fred.Walker@tyndall.af.mil  
(850) 283-6315 or DSN 523-6315

Mr. Fred Nehrings, Project Engineer  
(CESM) - **TRG**  
Fred.Nehrings@tyndall.af.mil  
(850) 283-6525 or DSN 523-6525

Mr. Dave Mathews, Project Engineer  
(CESM) - **TRG**  
Dave.Mathews@tyndall.af.mil  
(850) 283-6539 or DSN 523-6539



HQ AFCESA/CESM  
139 Barnes Drive, Suite 1  
Tyndall AFB, Florida 32403-5319  
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## Narrowband Compliance Help Desk

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Presented by:

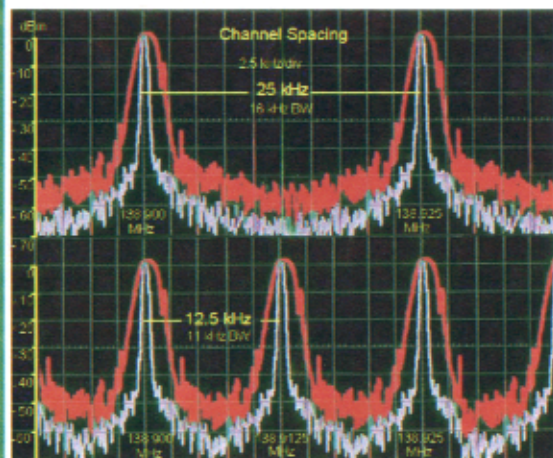
HQ AFCESA/CESM  
139 Barnes Drive, Suite 1  
Tyndall AFB, Florida 32403-5319  
(888) 232-3721 ext. 6995 or DSN 523-6995  
E-Mail: [afcesa.narrowband@tyndall.af.mil](mailto:afcesa.narrowband@tyndall.af.mil)  
Web Site: <https://wwwmil.afcesa.af.mil/>



## AF Civil Engineer Narrowband Program

The proliferation of wireless technology has increased exponentially in recent years despite a finite electromagnetic spectrum. Because of this, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) is requiring agencies of the federal government, including the Department of Defense, to narrowband wireless radio-based legacy systems or procure replacement systems that are narrowband compliant.

In order to increase the number of frequency channels available to new and existing users within the United States and its possessions (US&P), the NTIA has mandated the decrease of channel spacing from 25 kHz to 12.5 kHz. The NTIA narrowband mandate also decreases the maximum occupied bandwidth that a signal can have from 16 kHz to  $\leq 11$  kHz. By decreasing the channel spacing and the occupied bandwidth, the number of frequency channels that can be assigned to radio frequency users doubles. *Note: Installations outside of the US&P must comply with numbered Air Force and host nation frequency specifications/regulations.*



Graphical representation of 25 kHz channel spacing and 12.5 kHz channel spacing.

### Program Focus

The NTIA mandate requires all Federal users of the radio spectrum to convert to narrowband technology by the following deadlines:

- ▶ 162–174 MHz VHF Band (Legacy systems must be converted to narrowband technology by 1 Jan 05)
- ▶ 138–150.8 MHz VHF Band (Legacy systems must be converted to narrowband technology by 1 Jan 08)
- ▶ 406.1–420 MHz UHF Band (Legacy systems must be converted to narrowband technology by 1 Jan 08)

The only exceptions are military radio systems used for tactical and/or training operations and existing command destruct systems in the 406.1–420 MHz band. These systems are exempt from the NTIA narrowband mandate. *There are no other provisions for waivers, deviations, or delayed implementation.*

### Civil Engineering Systems Affected

Nearly all active duty, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserve radio-based systems used for sustaining base operations on a daily basis are impacted by the NTIA narrowband mandate. Some of these systems may include, but are not limited to:

Fire/Security alarms  
Land Mobile Radios  
HVAC systems  
Industrial controls  
Wildlife/Natural resources  
Disaster preparedness  
Remote barrier controls  
Refrigerating systems  
Bird scare systems  
Utilities (EMCS/SCADA)  
Giant Voice  
Runway ice detection  
Hazmat/Fire/Crash/EOD



## HQ AFCESA Establishes Narrowband Compliance Help Desk

The AFCESA Narrowband Compliance Help Desk was established on 1 Oct 01 to assist MAJCOMs with and provide Air Force wide oversight for converting CE-owned/maintained radio-based equipment/systems to narrowband technology.

The AFCESA Narrowband Compliance Help Desk is providing technical/programmatic assistance to MAJCOMs and Base Civil Engineers in order to meet the NTIA mandate. The help desk is available from 0800–1600 hours CST and will be the focal point for most radio-based systems and solutions. Help Desk personnel will contact the major manufacturers of CE equipment for narrowband compliance information, replacement parts, upgrade kits, approximate costs, etc. and disseminate the information to the MAJCOMs and installations.



The AFCESA Narrowband Compliance Help Desk has implemented two automated tools for MAJCOM and Base CE use: an on-line registration page for Narrowband point-of-contacts and an on-line database for capturing all wireless radio-based equipment owned, operated, and/or maintained by Air Force Civil Engineers. In addition to these useful tools, numerous hyperlinks to reference material are available for viewing and downloading. You can access these tools on AFCESA's secure web site at: <https://wwwmil.afcesa.af.mil/Directorate/CES/Mechanical/NarrowBand/default.htm>